

Message Text

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42

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 DPW-01 ORM-02 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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P R 231151Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3779

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

JCRC BARBERS PT HAWAII

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26601

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TH

SUBJ: ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW PL DEFECTOR UNSUCCESSFUL

REF: A) UDORN 6066 B) STATE 233883

1. CONSUL UDORN REPORTS THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO MEET MAJOR SIMMA AT NONG KHAI REFUGEE CAMP SEPT 22. CAMP COMMANDER INFORMED CONSUL THAT MAJOR SIMMA DEPARTED CAMP SEPTEMBER 19 WITH RTA OFFICER TO PARTICIPATE IN PSYWAR OPERATION IN SAKON NAKHON AREA. CAMP COMMANDER STATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT MAJOR SIMMA SOONEST AND ARRANGE FOR INTERVIEW WITH CONSUL IN SEVERAL DAYS.

2. CAMP COMMANDER, FORMER FAR MR-3 DEPUTY COMMANDER, FORMER THAKHEK MP, AND NATIVE OF THAKHEK COULD SHED NO LIGHT ON MAJOR SIMMA'S ALLEGED U.S. POW SIGHTING.

3. DURING A VISIT TO JCRC REPRESENTATIVE BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 22, MRS. MARY BOYLES DESCRIBED HER MEETING WITH MAJOR SIMMA.

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SHE HAD NOT YET HAD OCCASION TO HAVE TAPE CONTAINING SIMMA'S

STORY (REF A) TRANSLATED BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE CONTENTS WITH JCRC, EITHER IN BANGKOK OR HAWAII, AS CONVENIENT. WITHOUT STATING WHETHER OR NOT SHE FOUND SIMMA'S STORY CONVINCING, SHE EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT USG REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW SIMMA, WHICH WE ASSURED HER WOULD BE DONE.

4. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS (REF B) THAT THERE SEEM TO BE SOME INACCURACIES IN SIMMA'S STORY. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT HE DEFECTED FROM PL IN JULY 1973, THEN SERVED IN ROYAL LAO ARMY UNTIL HE FLED TO THAILAND AS A REFUGEE. BANGKOK POST STORY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 1973, QUOTED HIM AFTER DEFECTION AS CLAIMING THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE SECRET PLAN TO OCCUPY LAOS AND MAKE IT THEIR FOURTEENTH PROVINCE. ON BASIS OF THIS AND OTHER COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT SIMMA, MISSION BELIEVES WE SHOULD TREAT HIS STORY WITH CAUTION.
BURKE

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